May 23, 1944. A. J. HARWOOD 2,349,426

UNDERGARMENT

Filed Nov. 25, 1943

Fig. 1,

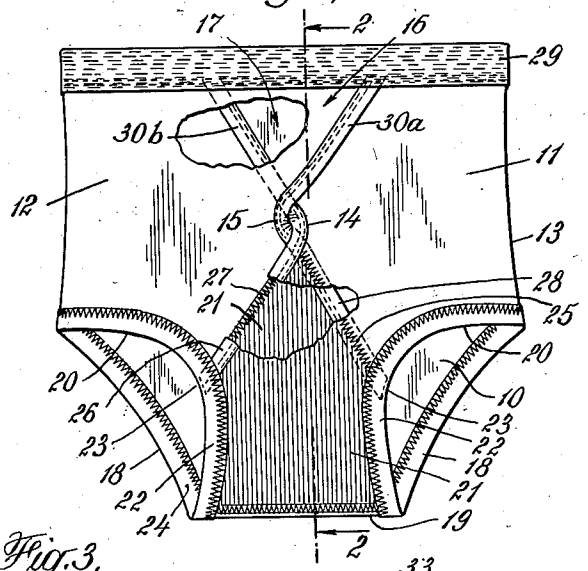


Fig. 2

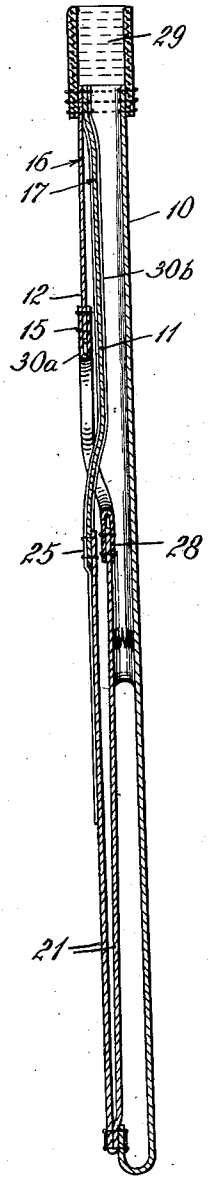


Fig. 3,

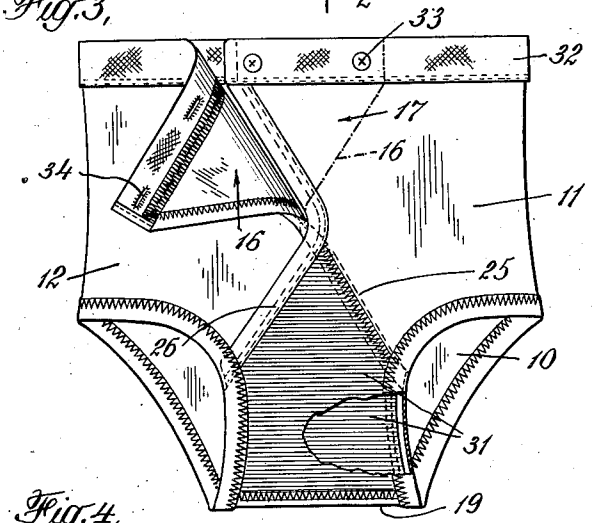
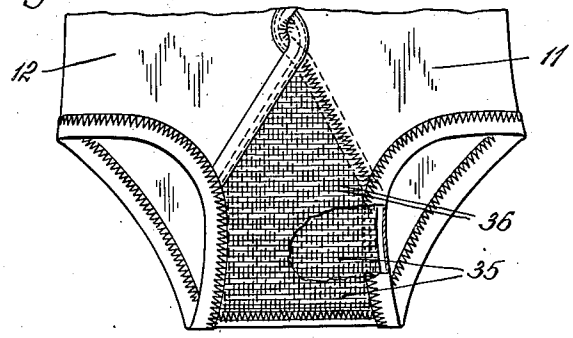


Fig. 4.



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UNDERGARMENT

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Application November 25, 1943, Serial No. 511,689

11 Claims. (Cl. 2—224)

This invention relates to nether garments for men and is concerned more particularly with a novel garment of the briefs type which is attractive in appearance and may be worn with greater comfort than prior similar garments. The new garment, which is preferably made of knitted material and fits the body snugly, is so constructed that access to the interior of the garment, while the garment is being worn, may be readily had by displacement of certain of the parts thereof. Those parts, when released, return to their normal positions, in which they close the access opening, and they are held in those positions by stresses imposed upon them by the stretching of the garment as it conforms to the contours of the body of the wearer.

The new garment includes a back section and a pair of front sections which have inner edges which cross between their upper and lower ends to define a space between them below the point of crossing and to provide overlapping portions of the front sections above that point. The front and back sections are connected by an insert which extends through the crotch and is made of two plies of material. The plies of the insert are connected to the respective front sections in such manner that the inner edges of the front sections and portions of the plies secured thereto may be separated to afford access to the interior of the garment through a space of substantial area. Reinforcements extend along the inner edge of each front section above the point of crossing of those edges and continue along portions of the edges of the respective plies of the crotch section. The garment is provided with a waistband connected to the upper edges of the front and back sections and to the upper ends of the reinforcements. The reinforcements are substantially inextensible lengthwise and when the garment is being worn, the reinforcements are subjected to longitudinal pulling forces which tend to hold the displaceable parts of the garment in position to close the access opening against gaping.

For a better understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a view of one form of the new garment in front elevation;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a front view of a modified construction; and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary front view showing a modified type of crotch insert.

The garment illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawing comprises a back section 10 and two front sections 11, 12 and these sections are preferably made of knitted material having vertical wales, so that the garment is extensible circumferentially. The side edges of the back section are connected to outer side edges 13 of the respective front sections, and if desired, the back and front sections may be formed of the same piece of material.

The free inner edges 14 and 15 of the respective front sections cross at a point substantially midway between the upper and lower ends of the edges and, substantially in a median line extending from the top of the garment to the center of the crotch so that the portions of the front sections adjacent those edges alternately overlie one another outwardly of the garment at opposite sides of such a median line and also at opposite sides of a horionztal line extending between the crotch and the top of the garment. In the construction illustrated, the inner edges are inclined to make them generally of V-shape and, by reason of their crossing, their lower ends are separated to provide a generally triangular space between them. At the upper ends, the edges define overlapping areas 16, 17, which are of generally triangular shape.

The lower edge of the back section is cut along curved lines 18 at either side of the central portion 19 to provide portions of the edges of leg openings, which are also defined in part by curved lower edges 20 on the front sections. A crotch insert 21 is connected to the central portion 19 of the lower edge of the back section and this insert is formed of two plies of material. Preferably at least one of the plies is made of a material extensible in at least one dimension and, in the construction shown in Fig. 1, the plies are made of knitted material having vertical wales, so that both plies are extensible transversely. The crotch insert extends into and fills the space between the separated lower ends of the inner edges 14, 15 of the front sections. The side edges 22 of the two plies of the insert are secured together by stitching from the end of the insert attached to the central portion 19 of the lower edge of the back section up to the lower ends 23 of edges 14, 15. The connected lateral edges of the plies define the remaining portions of the edges of the leg openings and these openings are finished by a suitable hem 24.

Above the lower ends 23 of the inner edges of the front sections, the crotch insert is formed with convergent edges corresponding to the lower

portions of the inner edges of the front sections below the point of crossing of those inner edges. In the space above the points **23**, the plies of the crotch section are free of one another and one ply is connected along one of its convergent edges to one of the front sections and has its other convergent edge free. The other ply is similarly connected along its opposite convergent edge to the other front section and has its other convergent edge free. In the construction illustrated, one convergent edge of the outer ply of the crotch insert is connected to front section **11** along the seam **25** and the other convergent edge **26** of this ply is free. The inner ply has one convergent edge connected to front section **12** along seam **27** lying beneath seam **26** and the other convergent edge **28** of the inner ply, which lies beneath seam **25**, is free.

In the construction shown in Fig. 1, the garment is provided with an endless waistband **29** of elastic material, which is connected to the top edges of the front and back sections. Extending from the leg openings to the waistband are reinforcing members and each member extends along the upper portion of the inner edge of one front section above the point of crossing of the inner edges and along a free edge of one of the plies of the crotch insert. Thus, reinforcement **30***a* extends along the free edge of front section **12** above the point of crossing and then extends along the free edge **28** of the inner ply of the crotch insert. Reinforcement **30***b* extends along the upper portion of the inner edge of front section **11** above the point of crossing and then extends along the free edge **26** of the outer ply of the crotch insert. The reinforcing members are made of a material substantially inextensible lengthwise and may be formed of knitted material cut so that its wales extend lengthwise of the reinforcements.

With the construction illustrated, the stretching of the garment when it is worn causes pulls on the reinforcements **30***a*, **30***b* which tend to hold the crossed portions of the inner edges of the front sections in tight engagement. When access to the interior of the garment is desired, these edges may be pulled apart horizontally and, as each edge is thus pulled, the free inclined edges of the plies of the crotch insert are likewise separated. This produces an access opening of substantial area which extends upward from the points **23** and may continue almost to the waistband. When the displaced edges of the front section and plies of the crotch insert are released, the forces applied to the reinforcements tend to restore the parts to their initial positions shown in Fig. 1, in which the parts of the garment close the front thereof, and maintain those parts against gaping while the garment is being worn.

The garment shown in Fig. 3 is generally similar to that shown in Fig. 1 but differs therefrom in two respects. The crotch insert is made of two plies of knitted material **31** formed with horizontal wales, so that the plies are extensible vertically of the garment rather than horizontally, as in the construction shown in Fig. 1. Also, in the Fig. 3 garment, the waistband **32** is made of inelastic material and it is formed with overlapping ends connected, respectively, to the upper edges of the overlapping portions **16**, **17** of the front sections **11**, **12**. The overlapping ends of the waistband are provided with fastening devices, such as buttons **33** and buttonholes **34** for securing the ends together.

In the garment shown in Fig. 4, the crotch insert is formed of two plies of knitted material **35** having horizontal wales and having elastic threads **36** laid in across the wales and extending vertically in the garment. This insert has greater resilience than those present in the garments of Figs. 1 and 3 and the elastic threads therein tend to hold the front of the garment more snugly against the body of the wearer.

I claim:

1. A nether garment which comprises a back section, a pair of front sections connected along their outer side edges to the adjacent side edges of the back section, the inner edges of the front sections being spaced apart at their lower ends and crossing between their upper and lower ends to form overlapping portions of the sections above the point of crossing of said edges, a two ply crotch insert having both plies connected to the central portion of the lower end of the back section, said insert extending into the space between the lower ends of the inner edges of the front sections and having one ply connected to one of said edges only and the other ply to the other of said edges only, said plies and overlapping portions being separable to afford access to the interior of the garment, and a waistband connected to the upper edges of the front and back sections.

2. A nether garment which comprises a back section, a pair of front sections connected along their outer side edges to the adjacent side edges of the back section, the inner edges of the front sections being spaced apart at their lower ends and crossing between their upper and lower ends to form overlapping portions of the sections above the point of crossing of said edges, a two ply crotch insert connected to the central portion of the back section and extending into the space between the lower ends of the inner edges of the front sections, the adjacent lateral edges of the portion of the insert lying outside the space between said inner edges of the front sections being secured together, and each ply having an edge secured to the adjacent inner edge only of one of the front sections and another edge free, and a waistband connected to the upper edges of the front and back sections.

3. A nether garment which comprises a back section, a pair of front sections connected along their outer side edges to the adjacent side edges of the back section, the inner edges of the front sections being spaced apart at their lower ends and crossing between their upper and lower ends to form overlapping portions of the sections above the point of crossing of said edges, a two ply crotch insert connected to the central portion of the back section and extending forwardly and upwardly therefrom into the space between the lower ends of the inner edges of the front sections, the lateral edges of the portions of the plies outside said space being connected together and the portions of the plies within said space being free of one another, said portions of the plies having edges connected, respectively, to the inner edges of said front sections below the point of crossing thereof, and other edges which are free, and a waistband connected to the upper edges of the front and back sections.

4. A nether garment which comprises a back section, a pair of front sections connected along their outer side edges to the adjacent side edges

of the back section, the inner edges of the front sections being spaced apart at their lower ends and crossing between their upper and lower ends to form overlapping portions of the sections above the point of crossing of said edges, a two ply crotch insert connected to the central portion of the lower end of the back section, said insert being made of fabric and the fabric in at least one ply being stretchable in at least one dimension, the insert having an end portion filling the space between the lower portions of the inner edges of the front sections below said point of crossing, said end portion of each ply having one edge connected to the lower portion of one of said inner edges and another edge free, the free edges of the end portions of the plies lying opposite to one another, and a waistband connected to the top edges of the front and back sections.

5. A nether garment which comprises a back section, a pair of front sections connected along their outer edges to the adjacent side edges of the back section, the inner edges of the front sections being generally inclined to one another and crossing between their ends to form overlapping portions of the sections above the point of crossing and a space between the lower portions of said edges below the point of crossing, a two ply crotch insert attached at its rear end to the central portion of the lower end of the back section and filling said space, the lateral edges of the portions of the plies outside said space being connected together and the portion of said plies within said space being free of one another and having convergent edges, each of said plies having one of its convergent edges connected to the lower portion of one of said inner edges and its other convergent edge free, and a waistband connected to the upper edges of the front and back sections.

6. A nether garment which comprises a back section, a pair of front sections connected along their outer side edges to the adjacent side edges of the back section, the inner edges of the front sections being spaced apart at their lower ends and crossing between their upper and lower ends to form overlapping portions of the sections above the point of crossing of said edges, a two ply crotch insert having both plies connected to the central portion of the lower end of the back section, said insert extending into the space between the lower ends of the inner edges of the front sections and having one ply connected to one of said edges only and the other ply to the other of said edges only, said plies and overlapping portions being separable to afford access to the interior of the garment, and a waistband connected to the upper edges of the front and back sections, the end portions of the waistband overlapping and terminating at the upper ends of the inner edges of the front sections.

7. A bifurcated nether garment which comprises a back section, and a pair of front sections connected along their outer side edges to the adjacent side edges of the back section, the inner side edges of the front section being free for at least a substantial part of their length, the portions of the front sections adjacent the free portions of the inner edges alternately overlying one another outwardly of the garment at opposite sides of a vertical median line extending from the top of the garment to the center of the crotch.

8. A bifurcated nether garment which comprises a back section, and a pair of front sections connected along their outer edges to the adjacent side edges of the back section, a portion of the inner edge of each front section being generally of V-shape, the apices of the V-shaped portions being adjacent, one front section overlying the other front section outwardly of the garment above said apices and being overlain outwardly of the garment by said other front section below said apices.

9. A bifurcated nether garment which comprises a back section, and a pair of front sections connected along their outer edges to the adjacent side edges of the back section, at least a portion of the inner edge of each front section being generally of V-shape, the apices of the V-shaped portions being, horizontally, substantially opposite one another, one front section overlying the other front section outwardly of the garment above said apices and being overlain by said other front section below said apices.

10. A bifurcated nether garment which comprises a back section, a pair of front sections connected along their outer side edges to the adjacent side edges of the back section, and a crotch insert connected to the lower end of the back section and to the lower end of at least one of said front sections, the edges of the back section, the front sections and the crotch insert being shaped to provide leg openings at the side of the garment, the lower end of the inner edge of each front section being connected adjacent the leg opening at the opposite side of the garment, the inner edges of the front sections being free for at least a substantial part of their length, portions of the front section adjacent the free portions of the inner edges thereof alternately overlying one another outwardly of the garment at opposite sides of a vertical median line extending from the top of the garment to the center of the crotch.

11. A bifurcated nether garment which comprises a back section, a pair of front sections connected along their outer side edges to the adjacent side edges of the back section, and a crotch insert connected to the lower end of the back section and to the lower end of at least one of said front sections, the edges of the back section, the front sections and the crotch insert being shaped to provide leg openings at the sides of the garment, the lower end of the inner edge of each front section being connected adjacent the leg opening at the opposite side of the garment, the inner edges of the front sections being free for at least a substantial part of their length, at least a portion of the free part of the inner edge of each front section being generally of V-shape, with the apices of the V-shaped portions being adjacent, one front section overlying the other front section outwardly of the garment above said apices and being overlain by said other front section below said apices.

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